



Mountain Living Update

January 5, 2009



Setting out the poles to mark the trail up-country



Pictured here: Mary Cokes, Joann Misare, Lucia Lebon and Star Misner



Eric Johnson, Star Misner talking with Emory Ray and Jimmy Ray in the cab of the groomer



Grooming the trail up-country

The road crew has been busy with the storms and snowfall. Will, Oscar and Gary have stayed on task, logging many *before* day light hours as well as during the day. Will is the full time operator and Oscar and Gary are volunteers. Ron Benson is heading up the team of volunteers to keep the filing roads groomed. Other members of the group are Eric Johnson, Jim Gelsomini, and John Cook. The parking lot has been cleaned once so far with another time due in the near future. **Also, the cross country ski trail near the Inn has been groomed, ENJOY!** All of Arrowhead appreciates your efforts. Thank you!

Arrowhead has been getting large amounts of snow. Here are the amounts J.R. Ellis has recorded for December. Dec. 16th 15", 17th 5", 18th 9", 19th 1", 20th 3", 22nd, 2", 23rd 11", 25th 5 1/2", 26th 8" by noon that day. For a total of 125 inches so far this winter. We have put out a pole with measurements on it in our yard, (we are on the south side of Arrowhead) it is showing 2 1/2 feet settled snow. However with drifting and in other parts of Arrowhead there is snow up to 4 feet deep.

Failure to Communicate

Over the Christmas holiday I elected not to plow the Alpine until extreme weather conditions subsided. In getting the word out what I meant to convey was that we would not be plowing until the weather subsided and until then folks could travel the Alpine at their own risk. Unfortunately folks thought I was closing the Alpine. This was not the case. I have no authority to close the Alpine.

In the future I will try and get the word out in a clearer fashion. That being said, I will not ask our road personnel to clear the Alpine in extreme white-out and blizzard conditions. My standing order is that they will stay in until this type of weather subsides.

Sorry for the misunderstanding.

Ralph Ambruster

A letter from Mary Cockes.

I hope you are enjoying this wonderful snow and a groomed trail "up country"!

The Arrowhead Snowmobile Club finally officially received a special use permit for grooming of the Alpine Plateau Trail from the USDA and the USFS, Gunnison Ranger District. It has been issued for the purpose of: "Trail grooming for snowmobiling on the Alpine Plateau Trail". Thanks to all the Club officers for working hard to obtain this permit. As required, Eric Johnson, Club President, notified Greg Austin, USFS Gunnison Ranger District, Trails Manager prior to the initial grooming of the Trail System.

The Alpine Plateau Trail was groomed for the second time this year on Saturday. With the help of Will Hobson and Pete Nauyokas breaking the trail, Jimmy Ray, our contract groomer owner/operator, groomed the trail up to Willow Park, over to Soldier Summit and part way down to the Big Blue Camp Ground. There is at least 3 feet or more of snow "up country". After having to turn around and come home on Thursday due to white out conditions, a group of snowmobilers met again on Saturday morning to put up poles along the groomed trail. Thank you, Eric Johnson, Star Misner, Lucia Lebon, Joanna Misare, Mary Cockes, and Mike Bartlett for your time and effort! More poles have been ordered and will be put up when they arrive. For your information, these poles are provided by the Colorado State Parks. Each pole cost \$10, reflector tape \$1 and attached sign \$4. The Club is responsible for putting these poles and signs out each snow season, taking them down within two weeks after the use season ends, and storing them. Please help the Club keep up with these poles and signs. They are a safety benefit to all of us and they are expensive.

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Our Club Operational Plan states that the Alpine Plateau Trail is to be inspected weekly. Trail grooming may be counted as an inspection. Those of you that ride the entire trail, please call Eric Johnson (862-8399) and let him know the condition of the trail. We will be keeping a record of these weekly trail inspections. All debris/downfall must be removed by the Club.



The Arrowhead Snowmobile Club had its' first group ride up the Alpine Plateau Trail to Willow Park this past Saturday. It is approximately a 15 mile ride up to the meadow. 35+ people participated in the event. A great big thank you to the Club members that met early and packed the trail to the top. Thank you also to the Club members that led the group up the trail. Most of all, **THANK YOU** to each of you that came out on a very cold morning to ride "up country". We had bright sunshine and blue sky. The temps warmed up and the forecasted winds never materialized. It turned out to be a beautiful day!



To those of you that participated, we hope you had fun and that you are eager to experience more snowmobile adventures. To those of you that could not join us, the Club hopes that you will be able to come out to some of our other group rides. The next group ride, sponsored by the Club, will be Saturday, January 24th. Meet in the winter parking lot at 11:00 AM. We will again have a bonfire so bring your own food and beverage. **Everyone is welcome**. Bring a friend and neighbor and let's all enjoy this beautiful area.



See you out there —————